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land, full of meteorological, medical and even botanical information, which may be recommended to those who wish to inform themselves concerning the climate of Portugal. The health resorts are grouped as (1) climatic, (2) mineral water, and (3) sea-bathing, and only those are described which are, or can be made, useful to foreigners. R. DEC. WARD.

Russia and the World. A study of the war and a statement of the world-problems that now confront Russia and Great Britain. By Stephen Graham. xi and 305 pp. Ills. The Macmillan Co., New York, 1915. \$2. 8 x 5½.

Russia in war time, as seen by an English writer, who had tramped from the shores of the Black Sea to the borders of Mongolia. The writer is the sympathetic friend of Russia and things Russian. He describes the war as immensely popular among the Russian people; their war spirit, as religious enthusiasm, which immolates itself, seeking death without fear, and waging war as the remorseless, avenging angels of their God. The Russian people are depicted as kindly and tender to their captured enemies. The effect of the war is said to have been the unification of the various peoples and nationalities living under Russian rule. The future of the Poles and Jews, as well as that of the different combatants in the struggle, after the war is over, is forecast, but such predictions are at best only tentative and very far removed from what will actually result. Interesting pen portraits of the Czar and his Prime Minister, the latter based upon a personal interview, are worthy of note.

Die Schwarzerde (Tschernosiom). Von P. Kossowitsch. viii and 156 pp. Ills. Verlag für Fachliteratur, Berlin, 1912. 10 x 7.

An account of the nature, distribution, climate and origin of the Black Earth belt of south-central Russia, though we are told that chernozem also forms a strip across central Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas, and is found in much of the Argentine Pampa, and in southern India. It appears to be a residual soil, occurring on a great variety of bed rock, into which it grades downward, granites, sandstones, and limestones. Usually, unbleached carbonates abound below. The climate is always semi-arid and the humus a meter or more deep. Kossowitsch believes it came of the accumulation of the remains of abundant grasses growing in a continental climate with short spring rains, and dried and preserved through long, hot, dry summers, in which the vegetable matter did not decay. A characteristic is the vertical splitting familiar to all observers of *barranca* countries. MARK JEFFERSON.

Greece of the Hellenes. By L. M. J. Garnett. 246 pp. Ills., index. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1914. \$1.50. 7½ x 5½.

The possible influence of an environment is found in the attractive statement: "So great is the demand for books of a serious character that Greek publishers find it more profitable to produce historical and scientific works than even popular fiction." This volume is replete with live statements that hold one's interest. Essentially every phase of life in Greece is presented down to date. Government, education, religion, natural resources, commerce, urban and rural life, customs and character are all described.

It is stated that of the 33 varieties of olives 30 are cultivated in Greece. The annual export of olive oil amounts to over \$2,500,000. For a well-balanced treatise on Greece and the Greeks, this book recommends itself very highly. The frequent illustrations are all good. EUGENE VAN CLEEF.

The Balkans: A Laboratory of History. By William M. Sloane. viii and 322 pp. Maps, index. Eaton & Mains, New York, 1914. \$1.50. 8½ x 5½.

After a consideration of Turkey and European politics, Mr. Sloane gives an account of the Balkan nations, their history, political, social, and religious problems, and the causes, progress, and results of their recent wars. "Physical geography," he says, "determines to a high degree the social structure of the inhabitants. Nowhere is the relation between man and his habitat